



NO. 485 JULY

35¢

SUPERMAN'S

ACTION COMICS



Presenting
THE CLASSIC STORY
THAT ANSWERS ALL
YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT
THE DAY THE
MAN OF STEEL'S
LIFE WAS CHANGED!

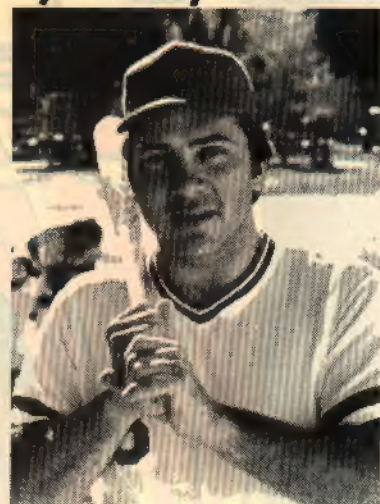
"THE TOUGHEST PITCHER I EVER FACED."

by Johnny Bench

Tough? This pitcher was inhuman. Absolutely tireless, for one thing. And I was looking at a variety of pitches like you wouldn't believe. Different speeds: fast balls, slow balls, and everything

movement. It helps develop quick reflexes. Helps your timing. But the most important thing it does, is help you develop a level swing. You know when you've hit it wrong. You also know when you've done everything right.

Batter Up is built to last. It doesn't take up a lot of room, and you don't have to chase the ball. It just keeps



get, the more you'll get to know your own swing and learn to develop it into a good one.

Like I said, this one's a tough pitcher to face. But if it were real easy, it wouldn't be any fun, either.

You can find your Johnny Bench Batter Up wherever toys or sporting goods are sold. Some assembly required.

in between. Plenty of sliders. And the world's toughest knuckler.

But don't get me wrong. It was great batting practice. It always is. Because the pitcher I'm talking about isn't a person, and isn't a toy. What it is, is the best training device I've ever seen. It's made by Fonas, and it's called Johnny Bench Batter Up.

With Batter Up, you can practice for hours by yourself. You learn to keep your eye on the ball and follow the ball's



coming back for more. And the more batting practice you

**Johnny
Bench
Batter
Up**

**JOHNNY BENCH
BATTER UP
FROM FONAS.
THE GOOD SPORTS.**



Johnny Bench Batter Up is a registered trademark of Fonas Corporation
Fonas Corporation, P.O. Box 759, Latrobe, PA 15650 (412) 539-4571

ROCKETED AS A BABY FROM THE EXPLODING PLANET KRYPTON, KAL-EL GREW TO MANHOOD ON EARTH--WHOSE YELLOW SUN AND LIGHTER GRAVITY GAVE HIM FANTASTIC SUPER-POWERS! IN THE CITY OF METROPOLIS, HE POSES AS MILD-MANNED TV NEWSMAN CLARK KENT--BUT BATTLES EVIL ALL OVER EARTH--AND BEYOND--AS...

SUPERMAN

Created by
JERRY SIEGEL &
JOE SHUSTER

OVER A
DESOLATE
WESTERN
PLAIN
STREAKS A
MAJESTIC
FIGURE
CLAD IN
RED-AND-
BLUE...



PROFESSOR BOLDEN SOUNDED VERY EXCITED OVER THE PHONE! AFTER YEARS OF PAINSTAKING RESEARCH TO FIND A REVOLUTIONARY NEW ENERGY SOURCE--

--HE BELIEVES HE'S FINALLY MADE THE CRUCIAL BREAKTHROUGH!

AND HE WANTS ME ON THE SCENE WHEN HE TESTS IT--JUST IN CASE SOMETHING UNEXPECTED--



--HAP--

UNHHH!

THE EXPERIMENT THAT BACKFIRED ON SUPERMAN!

PROLOGUE BY CARY BATES; WRITER:
PENCILLER: CURT SWAN LETTERER: MILT SHAPIRO
INKER: JOSEF RUBINSTEIN COLORIST: ANTHONY TOLIN
EDITOR: JULIUS SCHWARTZ

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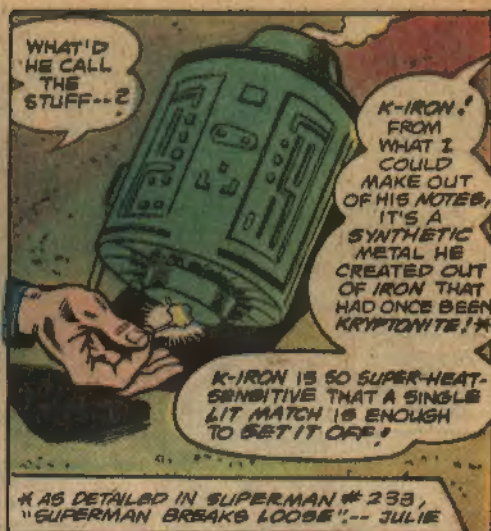
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MAN OH MAN!
DID YA SEE THAT,
BOSS?

NO WONDER BOLDEN
BESSED US NOT TO MONKEY
WITH HIS GIMMICK!

HE KNEW THE FUEL HE'D
INVENTED WAS THE MOST
POWERFUL ON EARTH!



WHAT'D
HE CALL
THE
STUFF--?

K-IRON!
FROM
WHAT I
COULD
MAKE OUT
OF HIS NOTES,
IT'S A
SYNTHETIC
METAL HE
CREATED OUT
OF IRON THAT
HAD ONCE BEEN
KRYPTONITE!

K-IRON IS SO SUPER-HEAT-
SENSITIVE THAT A SINGLE
LIT MATCH IS ENOUGH
TO SET IT OFF!

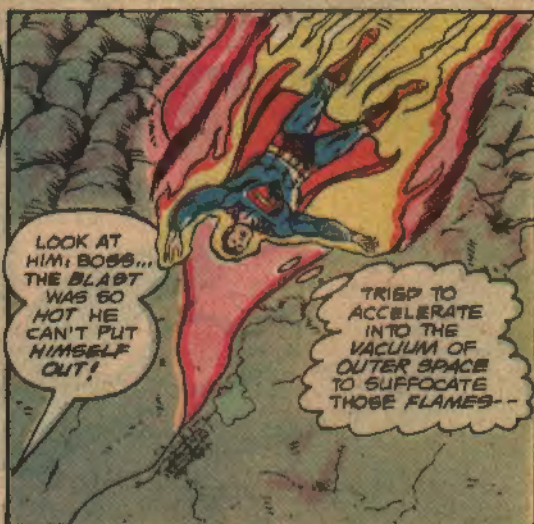
* AS DETAILED IN SUPERMAN # 233,
"SUPERMAN BREAKS LOOSE"-- JULIE



AND WHAT BETTER
TARGET TO AIM
THE EXHAUST AT
THAN THAT NOSY
SHOOPERMAN?

LUCKY THING
WE OVERHEARD
BOLDEN PHONING
CLARK KENT...
ASKING HIM
TO CONTACT
SUPERMAN!

IT TIPPED
US OFF THE
BIG RED'S
WAS ON THE WAY!



LOOK AT
HIM, BOSS...
THE BLAST
WAS SO
HOT HE
CAN'T PUT
HIMSELF
OUT!

TRIED TO
ACCELERATE
INTO THE
VACUUM OF
OUTER SPACE
TO SUFFOCATE
THOSE FLAMES--



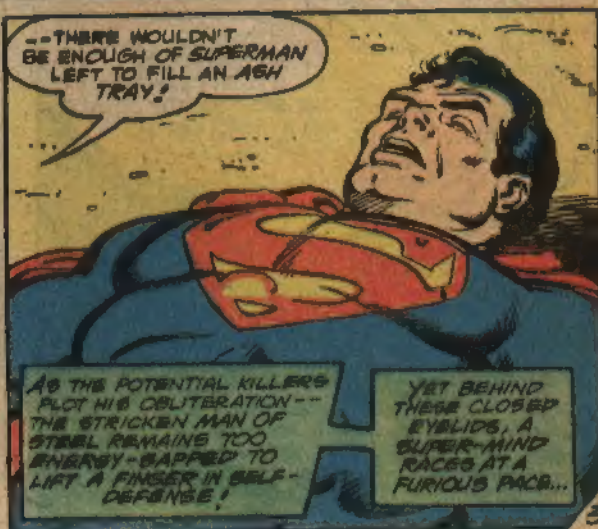
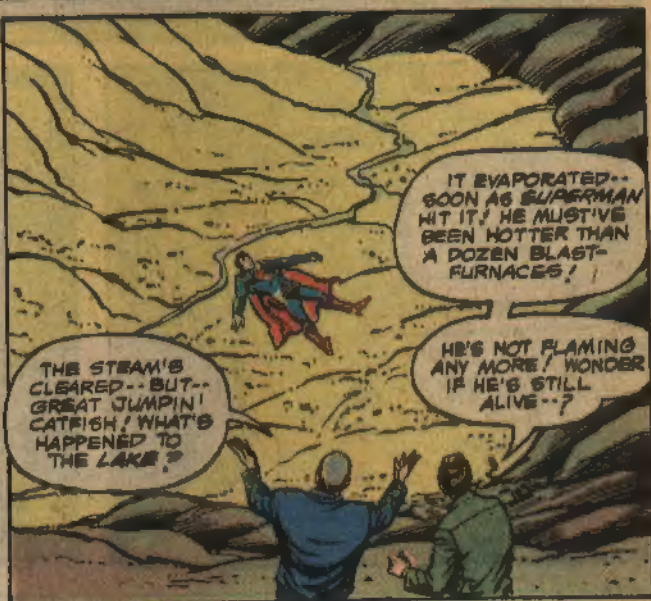
-- BUT SOMEHOW
THIS UNCANNY BLAZE
IS SAPPING MY
STRENGTH... LITERALLY
"BURNING UP" ALL
MY ENERGY!

PLUMMETING
HELPLESSLY
TOWARD THAT
TOWN BELOW!



I'LL ENDANGER...
PERHAPS ANNIHILATE...
INNOCENT PEOPLE...

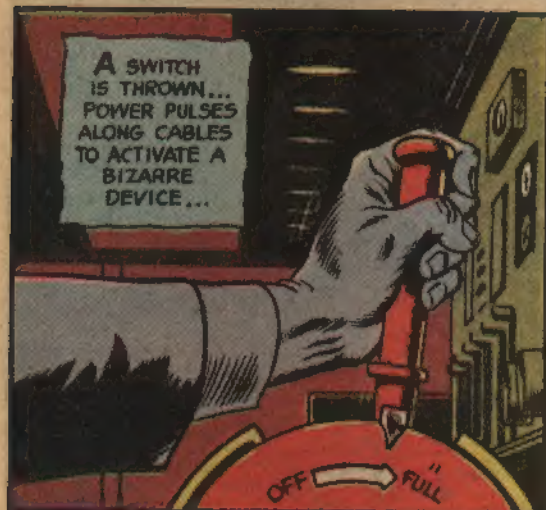
...UNLESS I CAN
ALTER THE ANGLE
OF MY FALL...



...AS SUPERMAN
RECALLS THE
FIRST TIME HE
AIDED PROFESSOR
BOLDEN, SOME
YEARS AGO-- A
MONUMENTAL
DAY WHICH PRACTICALLY
CHANGED THE COURSE OF
HIS LIFE... AND
CREATED THE FUEL
WHICH MAY DOOM
HIM!

I'M RUNNING A RISK BEING
HERE! IF ANYTHING GOES WRONG
WITH PROFESSOR BOLDEN'S
EXPERIMENT...

FROM SUPERMAN #233
WRITER: DENNY O'NEIL
PENCILLER: CURT SWAN
INKER: MURPHY ANDERSON



CONTINUED ON 35 PAGE FOLLOWING



WOW!

FREE BIKES,

BURGERS &

CANDY BARS



COMPACT
10 SPEED

APOLLO
RACER

**A 50,000
PRIZES A MONTH
GIVEAWAY**

**NO PURCHASE NECESSARY
DETAILS BELOW**

**EACH MONTH YOU
COULD WIN ONE OF
30 SUPER ROSS BICYCLES
25,000 BURGER KING.
GIFT CERTIFICATES OR
25,000 NABISCO CANDY BARS
(THAT'S ACTUALLY 50,030 PRIZES A MONTH)**

The makers of Sugar Babies®, Sugar Daddy® and Sugar Mama® are giving away over 50,000 prizes every month to lucky boys and girls all over. And you could be one of them!

To enter, just fill out and mail in the entry form. You'll find more in every package of delicious milk caramel Sugar Babies, Sugar Daddy and Sugar Mama. Remember, with all these prizes your chances of winning are greater and get even better the more times you enter.

50,000 PRIZES A MONTH GIVEAWAY ENTRY FORM

Name _____

Street _____

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State _____

Zip _____

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1. **NO PURCHASE NECESSARY.** To enter, print your name, address and zip code on the official entry blank or on a plain 3x5 piece of paper. Each entry must include the outside wrapper from either Sugar Daddy, Sugar Mama or Sugar Babies or hand print the words of any one of these products on a 3x5 piece of paper. Mail your complete entry to:

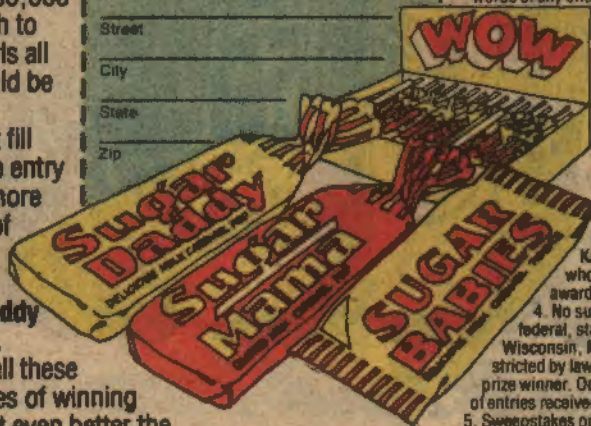
**Nabisco 50,000 Prizes A Month Giveaway
P.O. Box 1000
Long Island City, N.Y. 11101**

2. Enter as often as you like, there is no limit to the number of prizes you can win, but each entry must be mailed separately and received by the last day of the month in order to be eligible for that month's drawing. The final date for receipt of all mail is December 31, 1978.

3. Fifty Thousand and Thirty (50,030) prizes will be awarded in random drawings on a monthly basis starting January 1978, by Marden-Kane, Inc., an independent judging organization whose decisions are final. All 600,360 prizes will be awarded by January 31, 1979.

4. No substitutes or exchanges for prizes offered. All federal, state and local laws apply. Void in Missouri, Wisconsin, Maryland and wherever else prohibited or restricted by law. Liability for taxes is the sole responsibility of the prize winner. Odds of winning are dependent upon the number of entries received.

5. Sweepstakes open to US residents only except employees and their families of Nabisco Inc., their affiliates, advertising and judging agencies.



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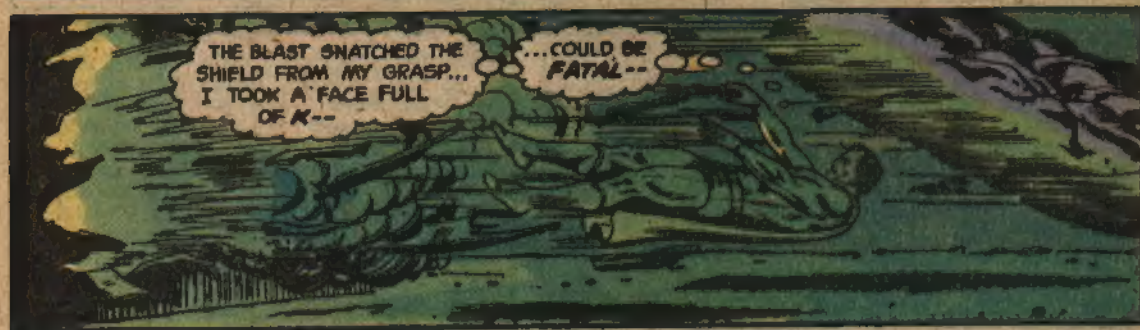


GOT TO KEEP THE SHIELD IN FRONT OF MY BODY!

ONE DOSE OF THAT RADIATION AND I'M COOKED -- LITERALLY!



HOWEVER, AS THE MAN OF STEEL APPROACHES THE SEETHING, GLOWING PILE...



THE BLAST SNATCHED THE SHIELD FROM MY GRASP... I TOOK A FACE FULL OF K--

...COULD BE FATAL--



LIKE A STONE, SUPERMAN DROPS TO THE SAND, AND LIES STILL...

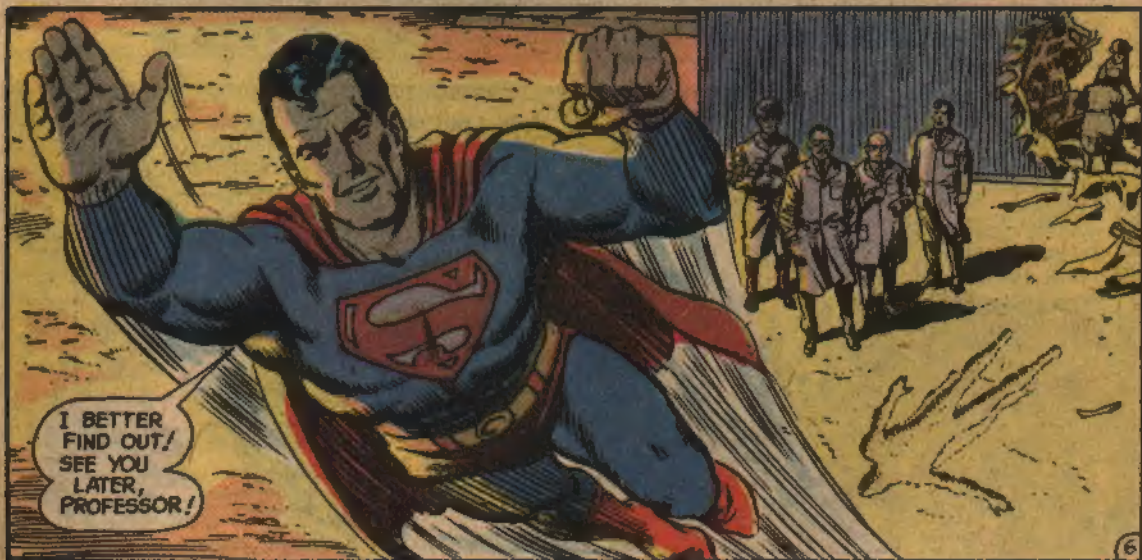
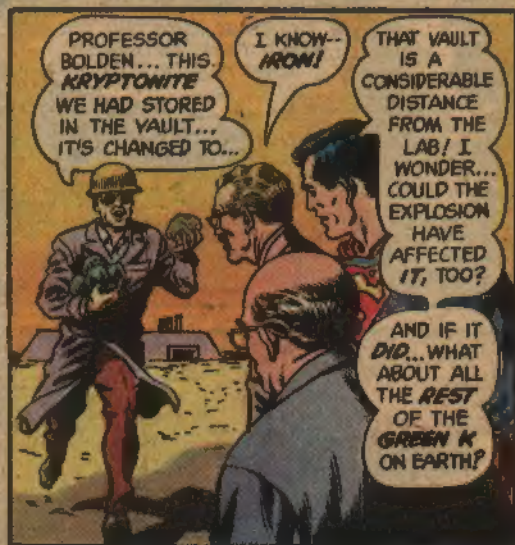


SEVERAL MINUTES LATER...

DOCTOR... YOU'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING FOR HIM!

SURE... BUT WHAT? I HAVE NO IDEA HOW THE EXPLOSION AFFECTED HIS BODY...

N-NOT SERIOUSLY, IT SEEMS...



WITHIN HOURS, HEADLINES
ALL OVER THE WORLD ARE
SCREAMING...

**LATEST
SPORTS
FOR
FANS**

DAILY

PLANET

FINAL EDITION

15¢ LATEST SPORTS FEATURES **DAILY** METROPOLIS EDITION 1960
KRYPTONITE DESTROYED!
NOW HE'S REALLY INVULNERABLE!

**ALIEN SUBSTANCE REDUCED
TO ORDINARY IRON IN WAKE
OF FREAK CHAIN REACTION!**

Leading authorities said today there is apparently no Green Kryptonite left on Earth.

Although they couldn't explain the strange chain reaction the two men thoughtless but



THE DESTROYER
NOW HE'S REALLY INVULNERABLE!

AND, IN THE
OFFICES OF
THE
METROPOLIS
POLICE.

GEE, CLARK, ISN'T IT GREAT! NOW SUPERMAN HAS NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF-- EXCEPT MAGIC... AND THAT'S RARE--REAL RARE!

AS
SUPERMAN, I
FEEL LIKE JUMPING
FOR JOY... BUT AS
CLARK, I'LL PLAY IT
COOL!

IT'S WONDERFUL, JIMMY!

I DON'T
THINK IT'S
SO
WONDERFUL,
KENT!

THE NEWCOMER IS MORDECAI EDE, PRESIDENT OF THE GALAXY BROADCASTING SYSTEM, WHICH NOW OWNS THE PLANET...

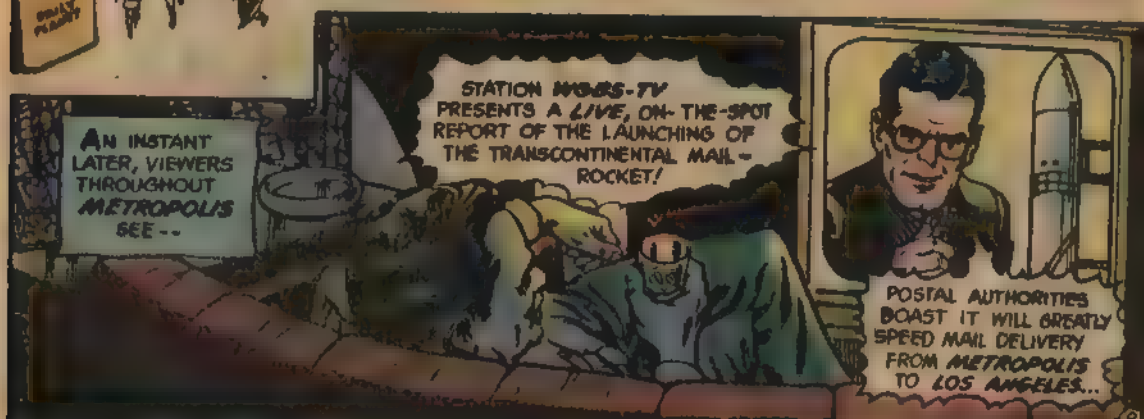
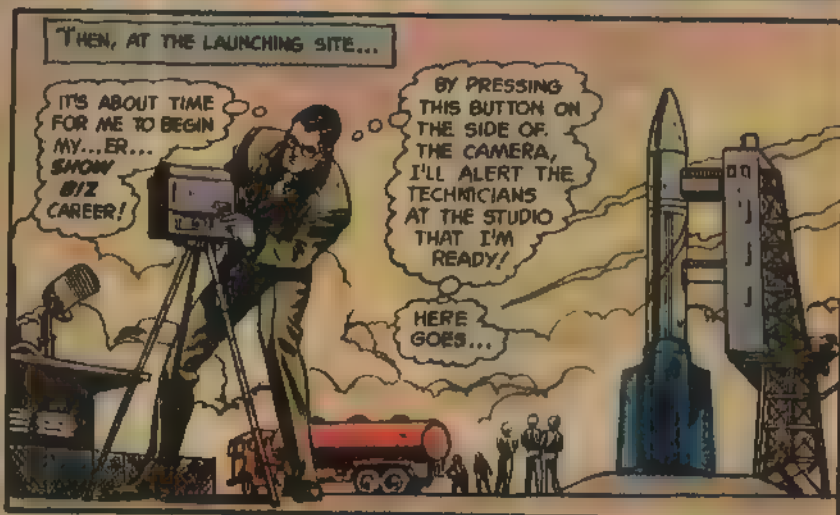
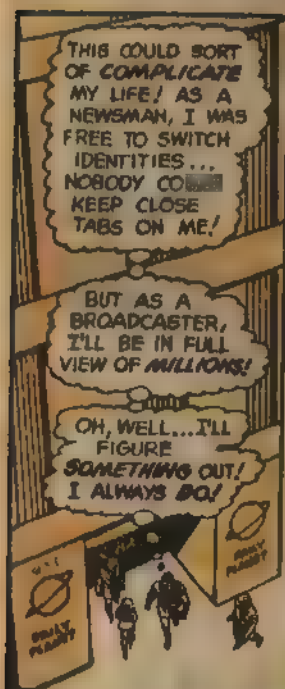
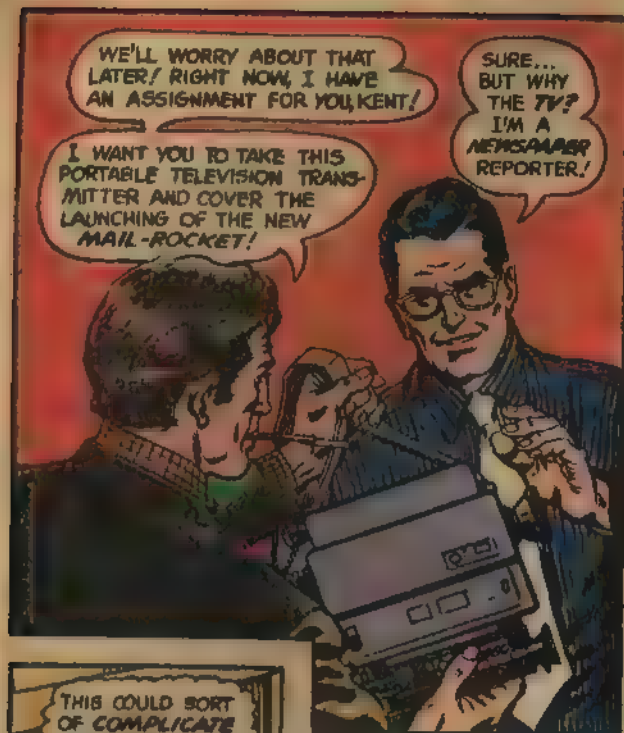
WHY NOT, MR. EDGE?

WHAT'VE
YOU GOT
AGAINST
SUPERMAN,
SIR?

THE SAME
THING I'D HAVE
AGAINST ANYONE
SUPREMELY
POWERFUL...

I DON'T **TRUST**
ANYONE WHO CAN'T
BE STOPPED! A WISE
MAN ONCE SAID THAT
"POWER CORRUPTS...
AND ABSOLUTE POWER
CORRUPTS ABSOLUTELY!"

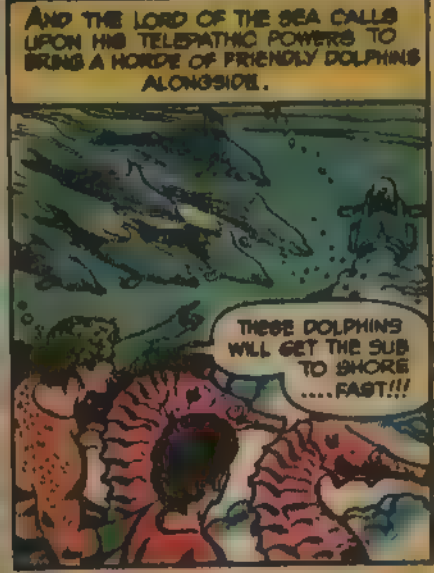
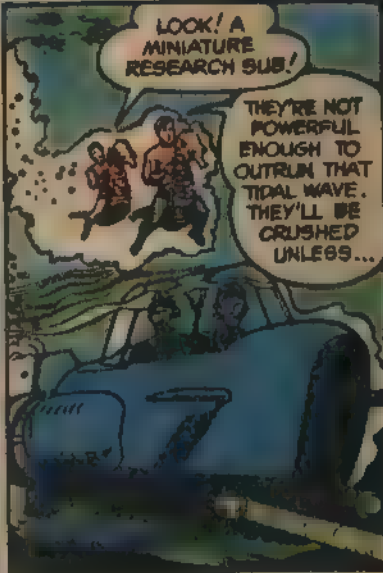
HOW DO WE KNOW
SUPERMAN WILL
BE AN EXCEPTION?



AQUAMAN and the IMPERILED SUB™

AQUAMAN AND AQUALAD ARE OUT FOR A PLEASANT GALLOP ON THE WAVES WHEN...

HOLY CATFISH, AQUAMAN, A TIDAL WAVE, COMING FAST!! WE'LL BE THROWN ON THE ROCKS.

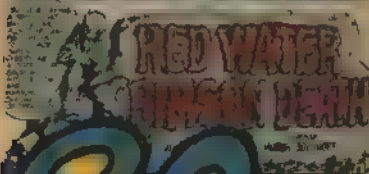


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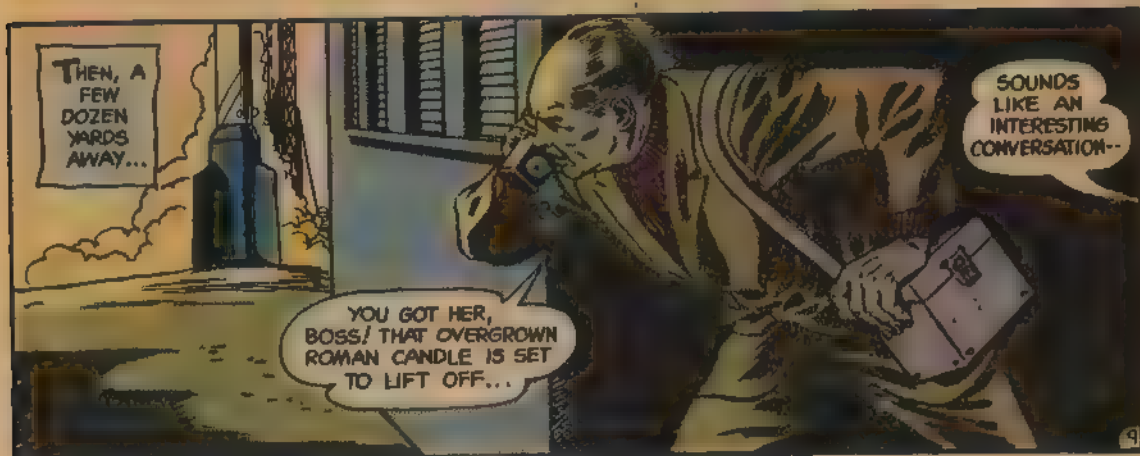
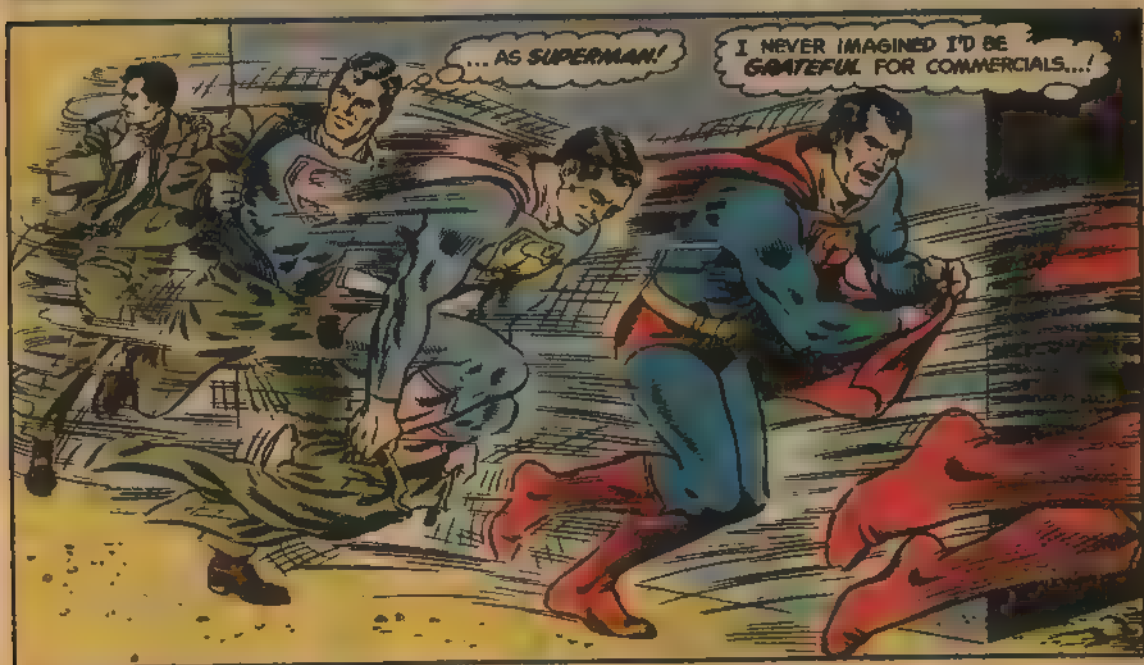
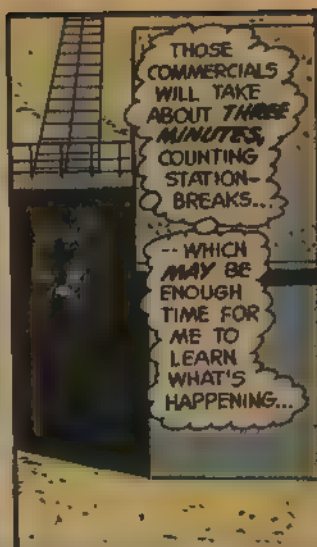
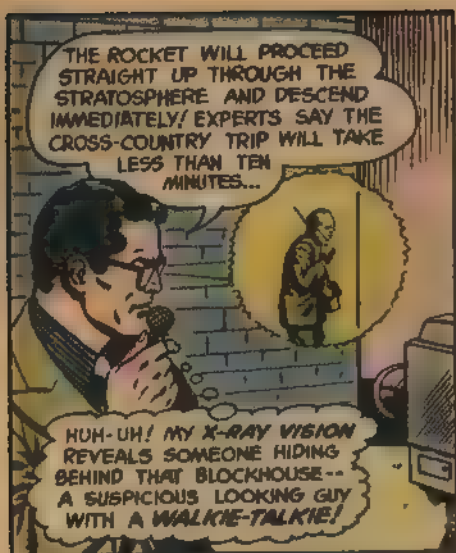
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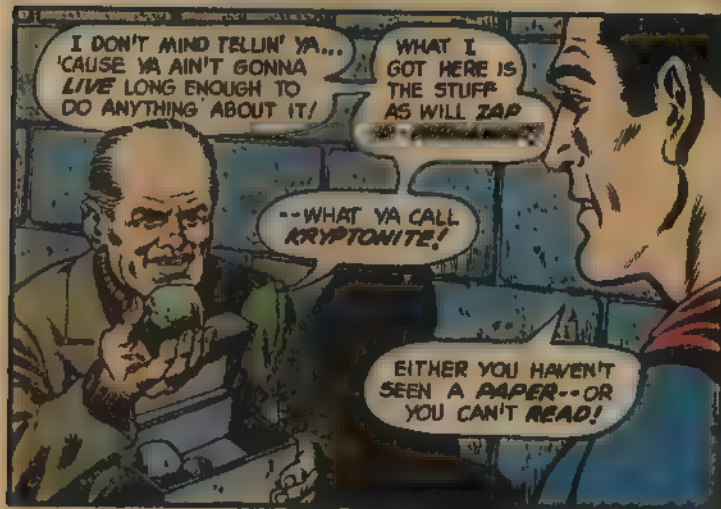
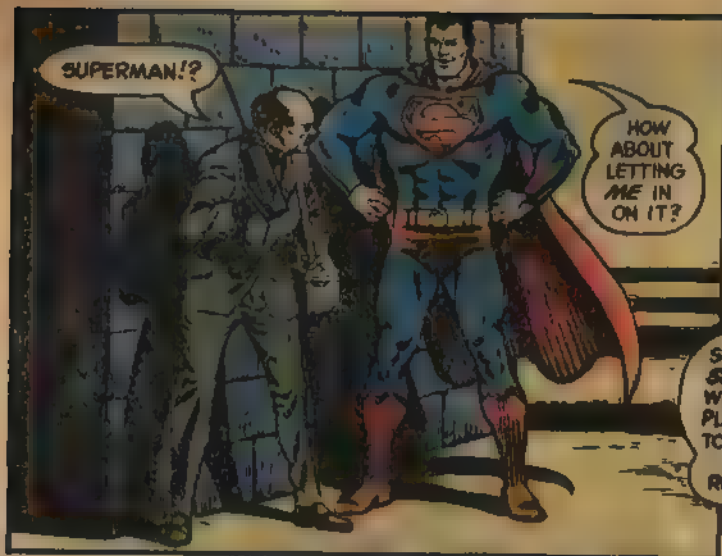
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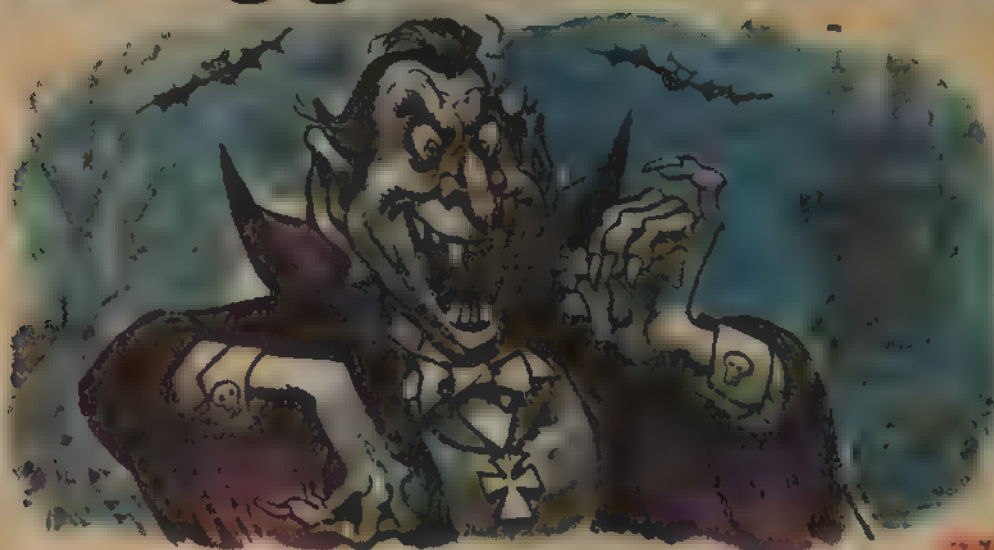
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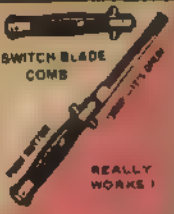
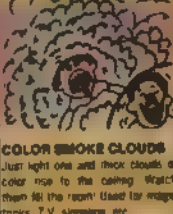
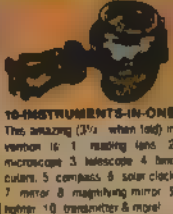
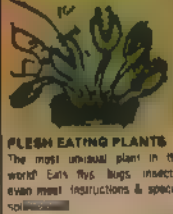
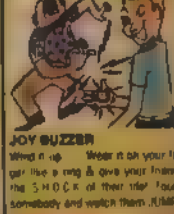
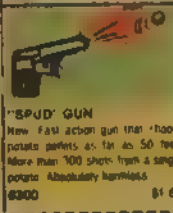
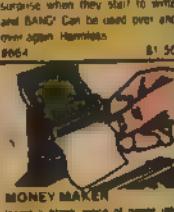
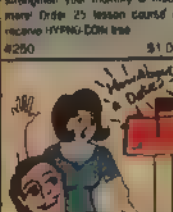
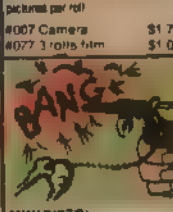
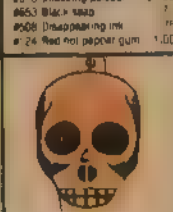
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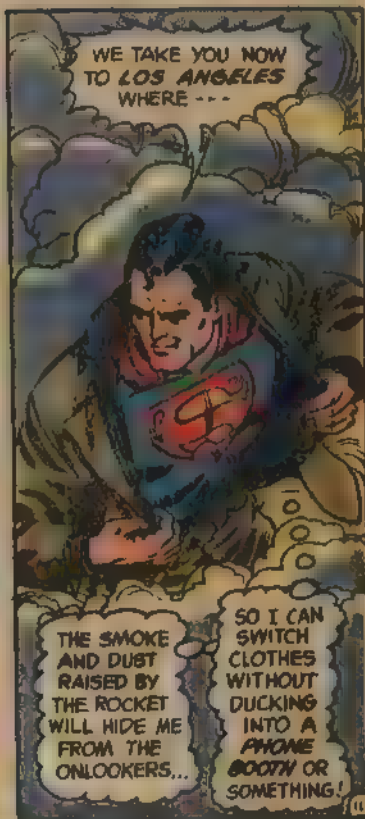
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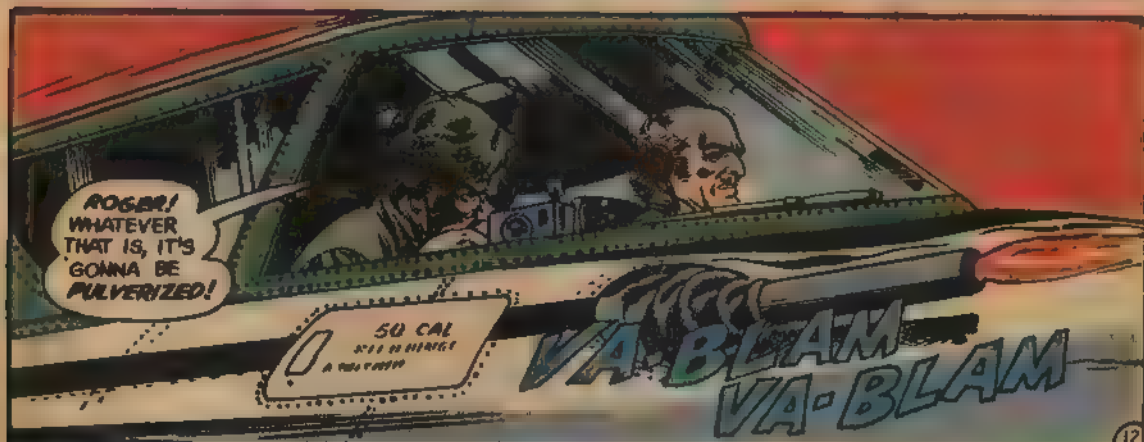
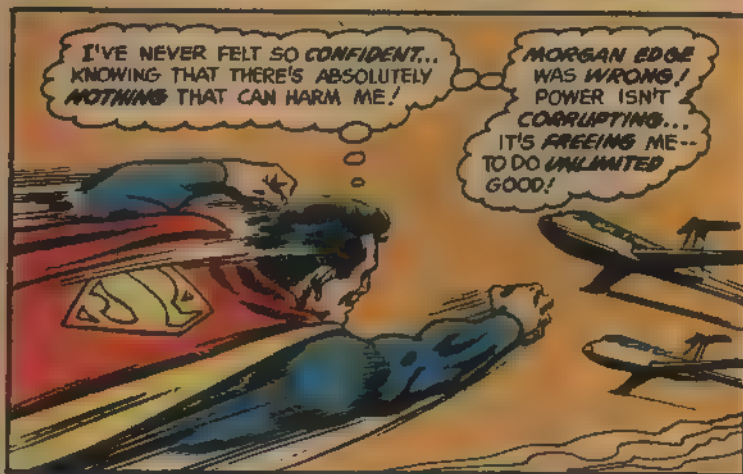
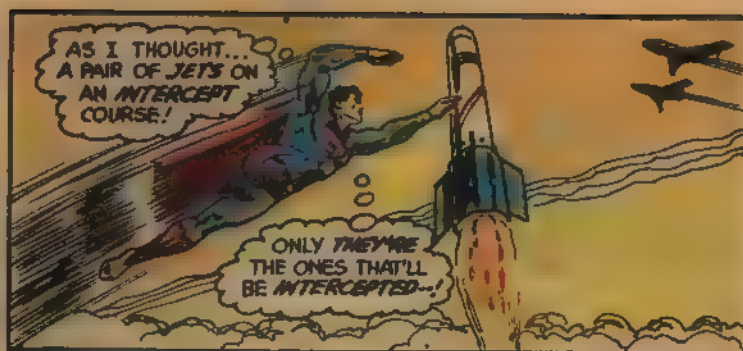
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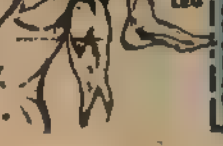
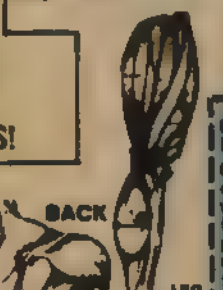
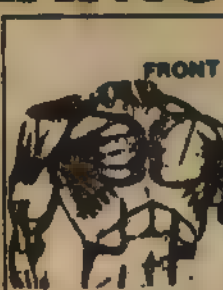
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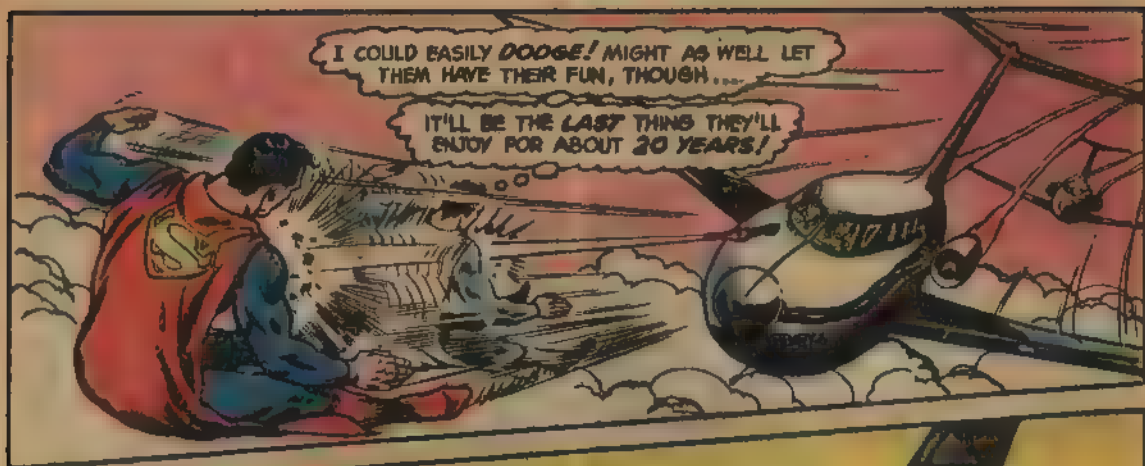
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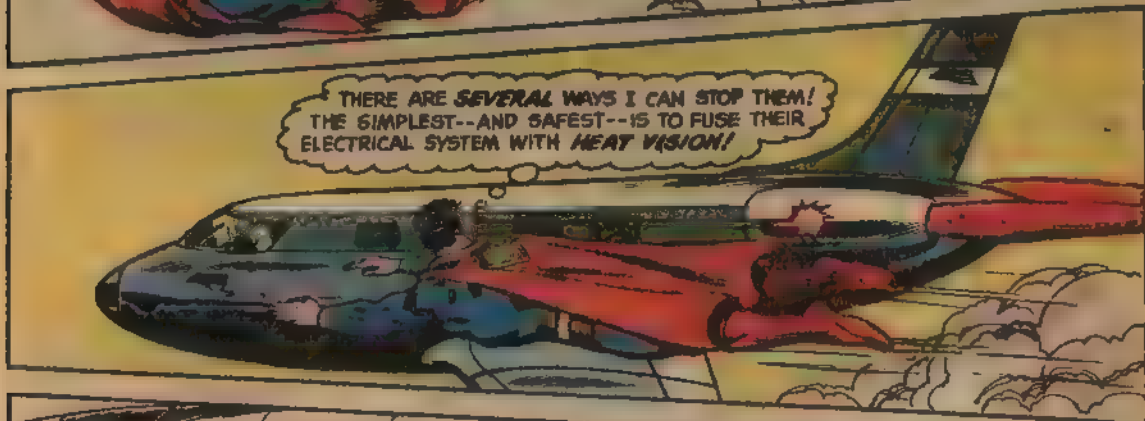
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I COULD EASILY *DODGE!* MIGHT AS WELL LET THEM HAVE THEIR FUN, THOUGH.

IT'LL BE THE *LAST* THING THEY'LL ENJOY FOR ABOUT 20 YEARS!



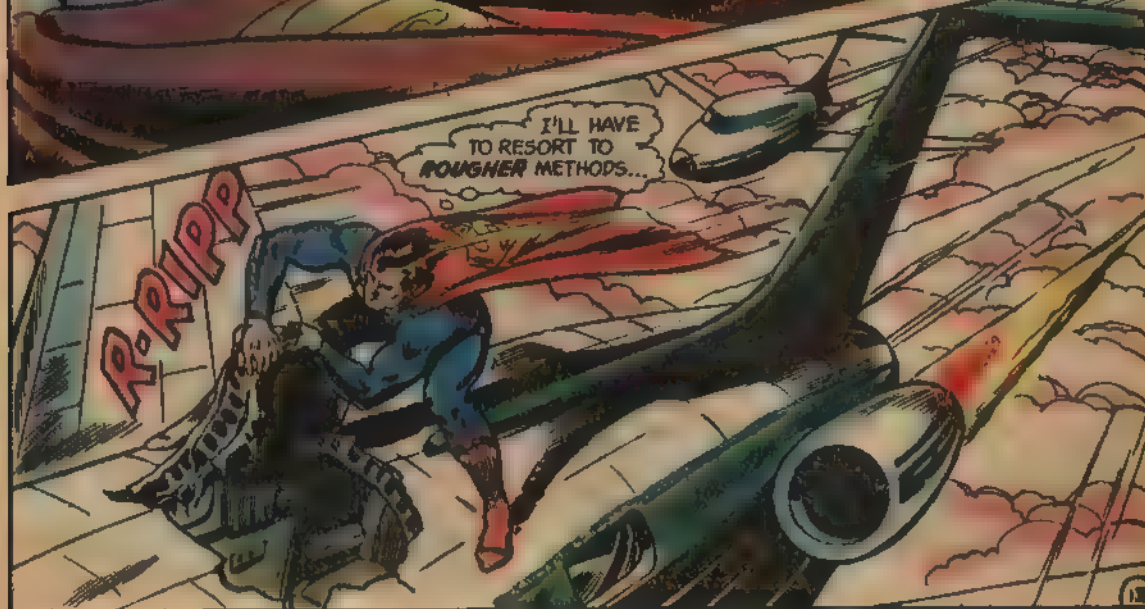
THERE ARE *SEVERAL* WAYS I CAN STOP THEM! THE SIMPLEST--AND SAFEST--IS TO FUSE THEIR ELECTRICAL SYSTEM WITH *HEAT VISION!*



ODD...*VERY* ODD! MY HEAT ISN'T PENETRATING THE AIRCRAFT'S HULL!

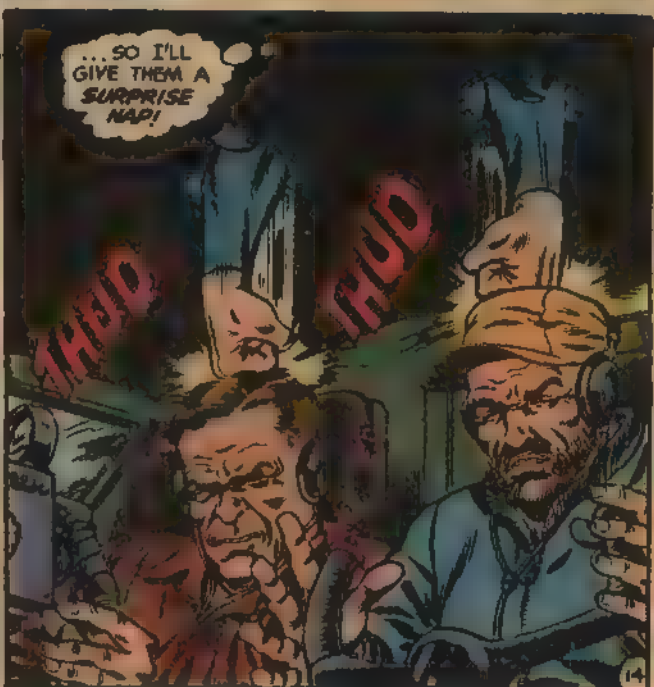
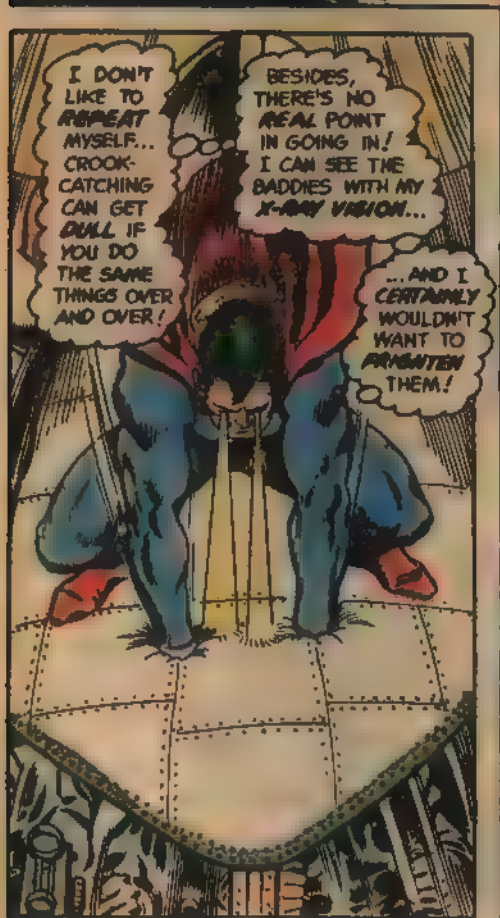
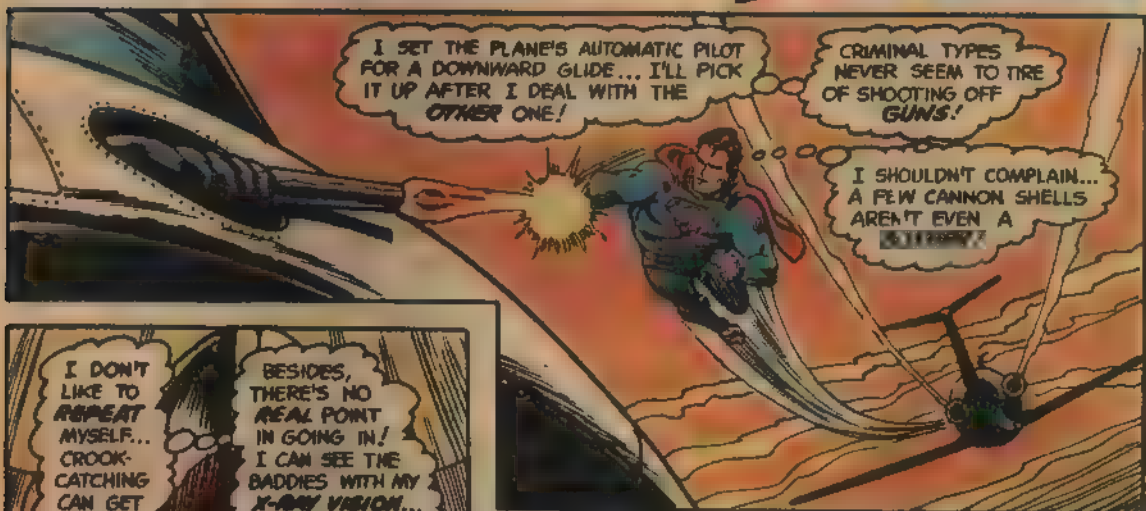
THAT'S NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE!

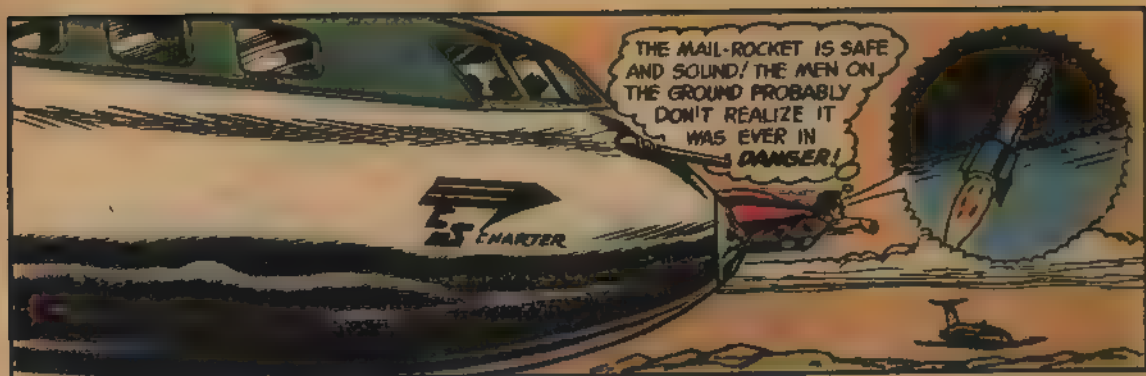
NO TIME TO WORRY ABOUT IT...



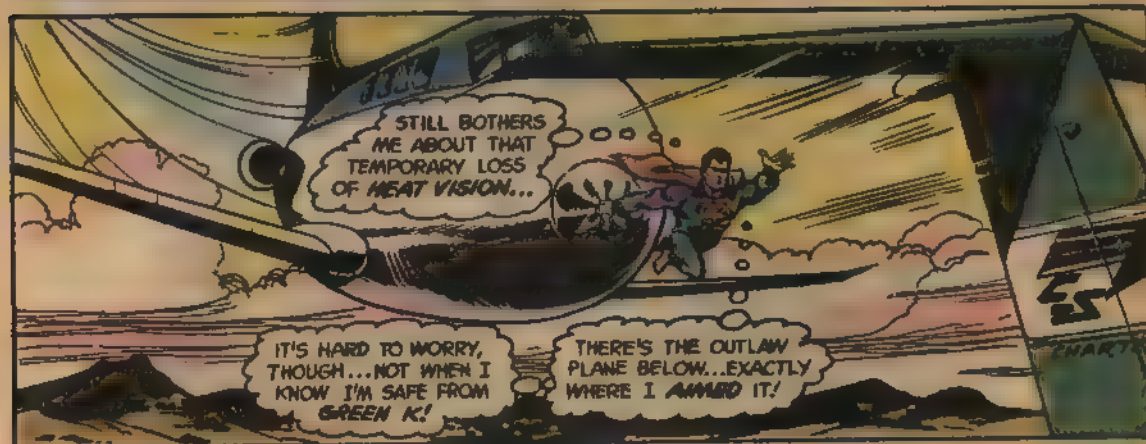
I'LL HAVE TO RESORT TO *ROUGHER* METHODS...

R-RIPP





THE MAIL-ROCKET IS SAFE
AND SOUND! THE MEN ON
THE GROUND PROBABLY
DON'T REALIZE IT
WAS EVER IN
DANGER!



STILL BOTHERS
ME ABOUT THAT
TEMPORARY LOSS
OF HEAT VISION...

IT'S HARD TO WORRY,
THOUGH...NOT WHEN I
KNOW I'M SAFE FROM
GREEN K!

THERE'S THE OUTLAW
PLANE BELOW...EXACTLY
WHERE I AIMED IT!



NEXT STOP, THE
METROPOLIS AIRFIELD...
AND THEN JAIL!

CURIOUS COINCIDENCE... I'M
NOW DIRECTLY OVER THE
SPOT WHERE I LANDED
YESTERDAY, AFTER THE
PROF'S GIMMICK EXPLODED!

HUH...?
SUDDENLY FEEL
... DIZZY!...
EXHAUSTED!

... LIKE THE
STRENGTH IS
BEING... DRAWN
FROM MY
LIMBS!

... A COMPLETELY
DIFFERENT SORT
OF WEAKNESS...
EVEN WORSE
THAN THE EFFECTS
OF KRYPTONITE!



...I'M OKAY, AGAIN! MAYBE I *IMAGINED* THE FAINTING SPELL... OR MAYBE THERE ARE LINGERING TRACES OF K-RADIATION IN THE AREA...

EARLY THE NEXT MORNING, AT THE PLANET'S CITY ROOM...

YOU DID A SWELL JOB ON TV, CLARK!

PERSONALLY, I STILL PREFER WALTER CROWTIE!

I AGREE WITH OLSEN! KENT DID DO A SUPERB JOB---

--AND THAT'S THE REASON I'M ASSIGNING HIM TO WGBS-TV ON A STEADY BASIS!

I'M GRATEFUL, MR. EDGE! BUT I REALLY THINK MY PLACE IS HERE...

SEE HERE, EDGE... I NEED KENT--!

NO ARGUMENTS, WHITE! THE MATTER IS SETTLED!

YOU MAY BE EDITOR--- BUT I'M BOSS!

BOSS... BOSS YOU BETTER POUR ON THE HEAT---

--SUPERMAN'S STARTIN' TO COME TO!

IT'S TOO LATE! WHAT LIFE IS STILL LEFT IN HIM--

FIRST
THERE WAS



NEXT
THERE WAS



NOW!

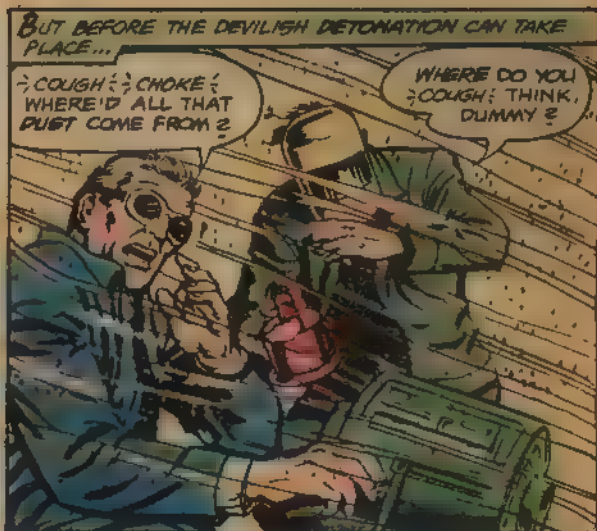
THE PEOPLE
WHO
PIONEERED
SUPER-HERO
TEAM-UPS
PROUDLY INTRODUCE

FIRST ISSUE
NOW ON SALE!





--IS ABOUT TO BE
BLOW-TORCHED
AWAY!



BUT BEFORE THE DEVILISH DETONATION CAN TAKE
PLACE...

COUGH! CHOKE!
WHERE'D ALL THAT
DUST COME FROM?

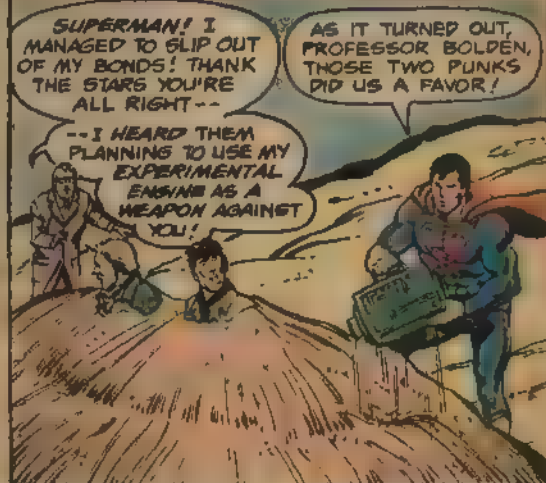
WHERE DO YOU
COUGH! THINK,
DUMMY?



IT'S HIM-- COUGH! USING
SUPER-BREATH TO BLOW THE
WHOLE LAKE BED ON TOP OF
US!

BLAST! JUST
ONE MORE SECOND...
COUGH! AND WE
WOULD'VE CREMATED
HIM!

AND WHEN THE FURIOUSLY SWIRLING DUST SUBSIDES...



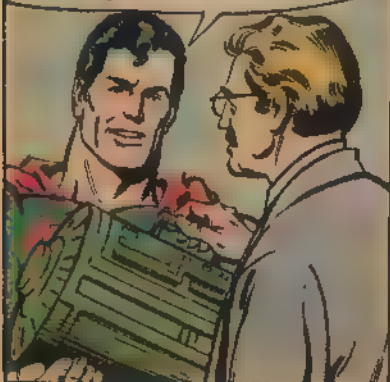
SUPERMAN! I
MANAGED TO SLIP OUT
OF MY BONDS! THANK
THE STARS YOU'RE
ALL RIGHT--

AS IT TURNED OUT,
PROFESSOR BOLDEN,
THOSE TWO PUNKS
DID US A FAVOR!

--I HEARD THEM
PLANNING TO USE MY
EXPERIMENTAL
ENGINE AS A
WEAPON AGAINST
YOU!

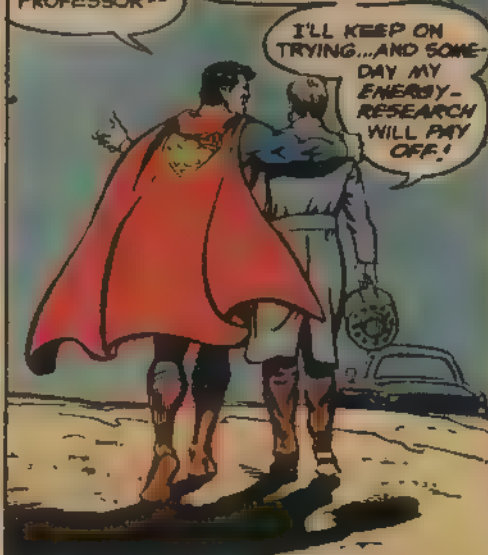
THANKS TO THEM, I DISCOVERED
THE SUPER-HEATED EXHAUST
GIVEN OFF BY K-IRON CONTAINS
A POTENTIALLY DEADLY SIDE-
EFFECT--

--A SUPER-COMBUSTIBLE GAS
THAT FLAMES UNCONTROLLABLY
WHEN IT COMES IN CONTACT WITH
SOLID MATTER--LIKE ME!



WHICH
MEANS,
PROFESSOR--

I KNOW, SUPERMAN--
BACK TO THE LAB!



I'LL KEEP ON
TRYING...AND SOME-
DAY MY
ENERGY-
RESEARCH
WILL PAY
OFF!

NEXT ISSUE:

WHAT DOES THE
MAN OF STEEL
DO WHEN HE'S
FEELING BORED?
HE TAKES A
JOURNEY WITH A
SURPRISE
DESTINATION--
AND DANGER--
IN

**"SUPERMAN'S
TIME-KILLING
TRIP!"**

ALSO--
THE SECRET LIFE
OF LEX LUTHOR!
CAN SUPERMAN'S
ARCH-FOE BE A
"HERO FOR A DAY?"

ACTION # 486

ON SALE THE LAST
WEEK IN MAY!



Because of last issue's special story and text, we have two lettercols this time around: one for #480 and an EXTRA one for #481. So let's get on with the first!

Dear Editor:

Evidently, all Cary Bates needed was a brief rest from ACTION to resume high-caliber story-writing. "Amazo's Big Breakthrough" was a pleasure to read, especially because it was an atypical Bates saga, relying neither upon stunning plot devices (which weren't there) nor upon Cary's unique brand of "surprises" (which were, but to a minimal extent) to make it entertaining. Its quality-plus aura was the result of its smoothness, its easy blend of action and characterization that followed Superman as Cary rescued and polished some welcome antiques from the Superman legend.

Just to see Superman manning the JLA satellite or dictating into his giant Kryptonese diary was a reminder of what made Superman great. But Cary added those little touches—Superman complaining that he doesn't know how to relax, or admitting his mistake in believing his power drain was due to Amazo—that effortlessly blended the humanness of Superman into the legend he's created. And Curt Swan and Franciso Chiaramonte, who always turn out beautiful artwork, outdid themselves here in fortifying Cary's tribute: the magnificent shot of Superman emerging from the ocean on page 6 was second in grandeur only to the final panel of the story, where Superman's proud pose in the face of death let the threesome reaffirm for us just who is the greatest hero of them all.

But what I enjoyed most about the story was the genuinely relaxing pace of it all. Someone ought to write a book about the maddening clash of styles between this magazine and Superman's own—and ACTION can't help but emerge victorious. How refreshing, after reading a recent issue of SUPERMAN, where each character is in the midst of at least one trauma, to see the lovable escapades we all grew up on, rewritten merely to incorporate modern characterizations. ACTION #480 not only gave us a chance to look behind and ahead, it assured us we don't have to tighten up inside whenever the two directions meet.

Thomas Kracker
4299 Yale Station
New Haven, CT 06520

Dear Editor:

Strange thing about ACTION COMICS: the more you read it, the more you expect. The more you expect, the more you get. The more you get, the less satisfied you are. The less satisfied, the more you read. And so on, ad infinitum. In other words, ACTION is habit-forming. And #480 is a perfect example. I've been a regular reader for 50 issues, and I've yet to be able to finish one series and not read the next. After last issue's fairly dismal showing, I thought it would be easy to go without reading the

current story. (Of course I would buy the issue to keep my collection complete. Heaven forbid I should read it!) Ah, but leave it to a boring Saturday afternoon to do in my plan. Out of sheer desperation, I read "Amazo's Big Breakthrough!" And you know something? I liked it! So I am officially giving up my idea of not reading an issue. Any magazine that pulls out of a nosedive as quickly as this one is worth reading as often as possible.

The idea on which Amazo's rebirth was based surprised me. Cary Bates actually came up with something that did seem to ignore the laws of established science. True, red light radiation could travel the millions of light-years necessary to reach Earth. However (you know there had to be one of these, didn't you?), I doubt it would be of sufficient intensity to affect either Amazo or Superman in the manners described. Light radiation travels in waves. As those waves scatter out, the frequency is lowered, lowering also the degree of radiation carried by the waves. So even a super-super-nova would probably be incapable of doing the things attributed to this one.

To offset that minor scientific mistake, Cary added the cameo appearance by the Justice League. Normally, I'd be shouting "Where are the other super-heroes?" But not this time! It is plausible for the JLA to be gathered in the satellite for a brief period. But what about non-JLA members? Black Lightning could help, and the Metal Men, Robin, Batgirl, ~~Wonder Woman~~ and others. Come to think of it, though, these are not the most powerful beings in the world. They're good, but no match for the likes of Amazo. Cary was right after all.

Congrats on the portrayal of the despicable android. His revenge motive against Ivo doesn't make much sense, but I expect it will next month. Speaking of Ivo, I'm glad to see a super-villain can reform. The alarm-in-the-brain gimmick was perfectly in character. Out of character, though, was Clark's hypnotism of the WGBS crew. Something must be brewing in that super-brain of his. I am baffled as to how he will manage to avoid the death-blow on the last page. A sudden surge of super-strength isn't Cary's style and that's the only way out I can foresee.

Mike White
1741 West 10th
Mackinaw, IL 61765

Dear Editor:

"Amazo's Big Breakthrough" was such a good issue it would be meaningless to summarize particularly fascinating aspects, since all 17 pages were similarly spellbinding in their awe-inspiring intensity of gut-searing emotional peaks that continued to build toward the climactic crescendo of pathos that has yet to see its senses-shattering conclusion in the phantasmagorically mind-boggling neo-classic yet to come, which leads me to mutter only, "Yep, this is the one! Kudos!", and softly sigh in breathless anticipation.

(A guy bet me I couldn't use every LoC cliché in a single sentence. But I guess I lost, since I didn't start out with "What can I say ... ?" So it goes.)

Steve Edwards
1741 West 10th
Rockford, IL 61109

And what happened to the oldest cliché of them all—"Keep up the good work!"—E. Nelson Bridwell





EXTRA

c/o DC COMICS, INC.
75 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10019

Dear Editor: It is about time Superman had a foe worthy of him. Amazo is a worthy opponent because he has all the powers of the Justice League members and can really make Superman work. Sure, Luthor, Brainiac, The Parasite and Amalak are dangerous, but Amazo is the most powerful, and his android brain puts him in Luthor and Brainiac's league.

ACTION 481 will probably get accused of being campy, what with the introduction of the Supermobile. If this story was done in the sixties, it would most likely have been campy, but now it came off great. One does have to admit the title ("It's a Bird . . . It's a Plane . . . It's Supermobile") is campy, but I loved it, and the logic behind the Supermobile was sound. It worked well in replacing Superman's lost powers and did not come off like so many ridiculous Bat-gadgets or the absurd Spider-mobile. It was as if Superman himself was battling Amazo; the Supermobile just added a novel and interesting twist. Cary's way of diverting the JLA in the last few storylines is great, but he can't keep it up realistically forever. However, I do hope he keeps using foes worthy of Superman's mettle.

The art of Swan and Chiaramonte was great as expected and I'll leave it at that.

In closing, I would like to say that I prefer full-length stories. Clark Kent and other second features are more suited for **SUPERMAN FAMILY** than **ACTION**. If there must be seconds, make them more action oriented, such as a super-hero.

Kent A. Phenix
RR #3
Liberty, IN 47353

And beginning in the September issue, that's exactly what you'll get—*The Atom* alternating with *Air Wave*! And without drastically cutting our Superman tales, since each issue will have 28 pages of art!—E.N.B.

Dear Idiotic Cary (and Julie, who approved the idea):
Concerning **ACTION** #481, "It's a Bird, It's a Plane, It's Supermobile!":

AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA
RRRRRRRRRRGGGGGGGGGGGGGGHHHHHHHHH!!!!

Surely there must be a story behind the story. Perhaps the merchandising firm that handles your super-hero products prompted you to create the Supermobile so they could make a model of it. I shall buy next issue in the hopes that the Supermobile will be scrapped in it.

If not, however—any cover that includes the supermobile, I shall not buy that issue. A fight between Superman and Amazo would have been enjoyable, since Amazo has Superman outclassed a dozen times in power. But you had to ruin it with the power loss and the Supermobile.

Al Shroeder III
2207 Old Hickory Blvd.
Nashville, Tenn. 37215

Whew! We barely kept you buying—by NOT featuring the Supermobile on the cover of the last chapter of the Amazo story!—E.N.B.

Dear Eddie:

Congratulations! With a title like "It's a Bird . . . It's a Plane . . . It's Supermobile," I expected 100% natural Bates canned corn. But no. In this issue, Cary Bates utilized all the story elements he unfortunately tended to ignore in past years.

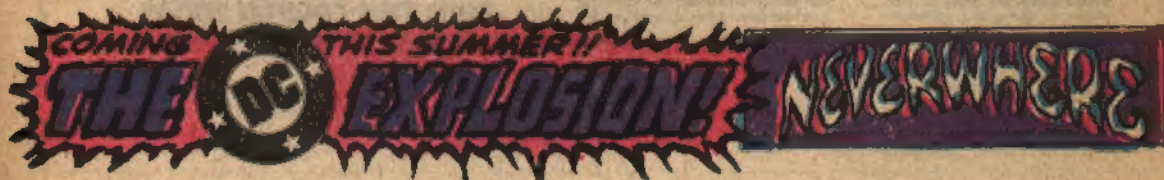
1. Continuity. We were not presented with a new villain with totally underlined powers. Amazo is an oldie but a goodie (baddie?), with powers any JLA fan is well familiar with. (I'd like to remind you, though, that Amazo has never absorbed the powers of Black Canary, Atom, Green Arrow, Red Tornado, Hawkman, Hawkgirl, or the Phantom Stranger. He should display the powers of J'onn J'onzz, though.) It's also the first time in years we've seen Supermanium. I didn't think anyone but E.N.B. and me remembered it.

2. Predictability. A story tends to lack suspense if the reader cannot hope to outguess the hero. This is the first "guessable" Bates story I've ever read. For example: Prof. Ivo is concealed in the "safest place" in the Fortress. Only one place is safe from an android whose super-hearing could trace a heartbeat—Kandor! ("The best place to hide a needle is in a haystack! Not in a pile of other needles!"—**RAGMAN** #1.) Since the Supermobile is impervious to red-sun radiation, Superman himself is obviously its mysterious "engine."

And the only logical way to free the JLA is Superman's own Super-will-power backing up Amazo's duplicate power ring. Keep up the great work, Cary. Until the Supercopter and the Superang.

Robert A. Bualth
226 Hathaway Ave.
Elmont, NY 11003

Eddie?? Oh well—you were right about the Hawks, the Stranger and J'onn—but wrong about the rest. You forgot Amazo has battled the JLA on several occasions, absorbing *The Atom's* power twice, *GA's* three times, *BC's*, *Roddy's* and *Elongated Man's* once. As for your predictions—close. Ivo was reduced by the Kandor ray, but hidden in Superman's cape-pouch. It was a power ring that released the JLA, but not Amazo's and not worked by Superman. You hit the bull's-eye on the Supermobile's motive force, though. So Cary turned out to be predictable, though not as much as you thought. Supercopter and Superang? I hope not! Eddie??? Sure, the first name is Edward, but no one uses that mode of address for—E. Nelson Bridwell.



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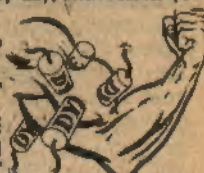
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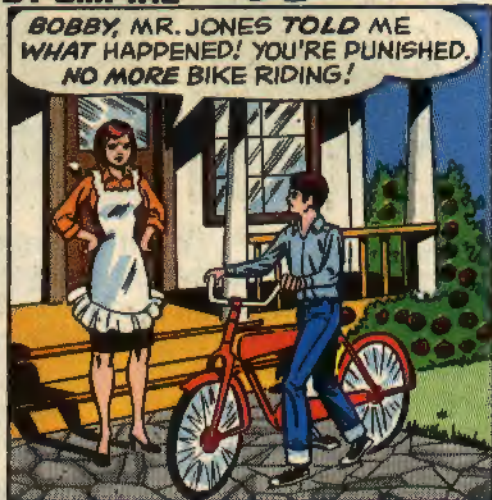
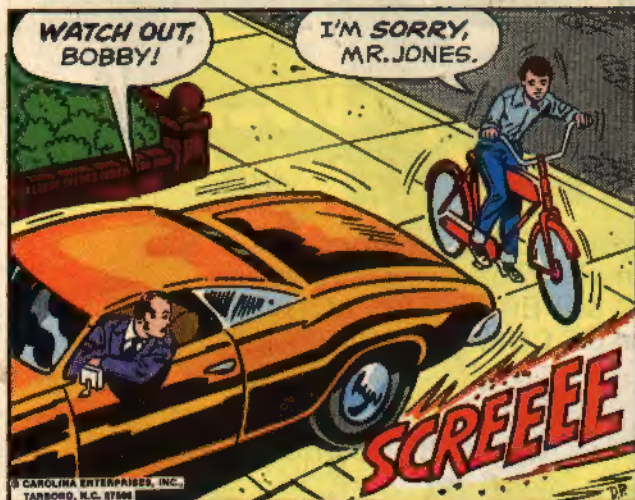


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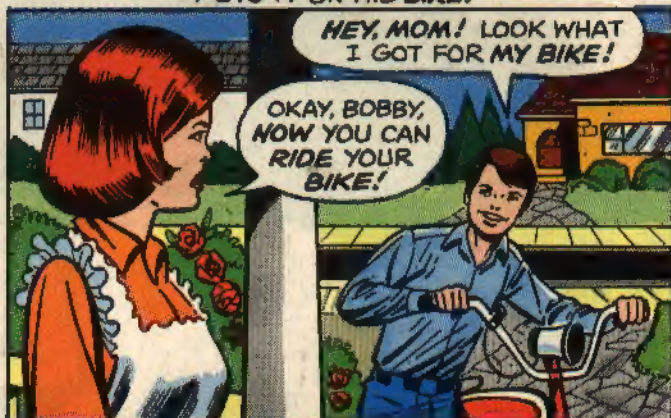
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